

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION USMISSION GENEVA FROM SECSTATE MAY 21.

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E.O. 11652 ./A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF RED CROSS C(8:4:)

REF: GENEVA 2301 AND

1. FROM DISCUSSION WITH ICRC REPS LEFORT AND MICHELI
MAY 10, DEPT. UNDERSTANDS GENEVA GROUP WILL DISCUSS ICRC
FINANCING INFORMALLY IN EARLY JUNE. ICRC REPS ADVISED
THAT ICRC EXPECTS TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE REGULAR ANNUAL
DONATION FROM SWISS GOVERNMENT OF U.5 MILLION SWISS
FRANCS, AND THAT IT HOPES TO OBTAIN AN EQUAL AMOUNT FROM
OTHER GOVERNMENTS UNDER VOLUNTARY APPLICATION OF UN
FORMULA.

2. USG ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO ICRC IS PRESENTLY AUTHOR-
IZED BY CONGRESS AT DOLS. 50.000 PER ANNUM, AND THIS
AMOUNT HAS IN FACT BEEN CONTRIBUTED FOR EIGHT YEARS. IN
ADDITION, USG MADE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ICRC OF DOLS.
1 MILLION ON 30 JUNE 1971 FOR HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER
RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE TO WAR VICTIMS. THIS CONTRIBUTION
WAS IN ADDITION TO THOSE MADE FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS,
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SUCH AS HUMANITARIAN RELIEF IN BANGLADESH, MIDDLE EAST,

NIGERIA, AND INDOCHINA.

3. BECAUSE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO INCREASE LEVEL OF US REGULAR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION, USG CANNOT AT THIS TIME PLEDGE INCREASED AMOUNT FOR THIS PURPOSE. USG REP IN GENEVA MAY, HOWEVER, STATE AS FOLLOWS:

A. USG IN PRINCIPLE SUPPORTS CONCEPT OF INCREASED REGULAR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS TO ICRC AND HOPES WIDE RANGE OF GOVERNMENTS WILL MAKE OR INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT SWISS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE APPROX. HALF ICRC'S TOTAL REGULAR BUDGET.

B. DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED ICRC OF INTENTION TO WORK WITH MEMBERS OF US CONGRESS TO SECURE INCREASED ANNUAL REGULAR CONTRIBUTION TO ICRC AND HOPES SUCH INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE SOON.

4. IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING, WE SUGGEST GENEVA GROUP MAKE CLEAR TO ICRC IMPORTANCE OF MODERN, EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES FOR ITS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED ANNUAL BUDGETS (COMPARED TO PAST YEARS). THESE INCREASES, COUPLED WITH ICRC'S DESIRE FOR INCREASED REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS, MAKE IT ESSENTIAL THAT ICRC BE ABLE TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE REPORTING ON THEIR USE OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

5. AT SAME TIME, USG REP SHOULD MAKE CLEAR USG UNDERSTANDS AND ENDORSES IMPORTANCE OF ICRC MAINTAINING ITS TRADITIONAL INDEPENDENT, NON-POLITICAL CHARACTER, IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ITS ABILITY TO ACT IN SITUATIONS WHERE GOVERNMENTS (AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS) MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO INTERVENE FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES.

6. FYI, DEPT. BELIEVES WE CANNOT TAKE POSITION AT THIS TIME ON MAGNITUDE OF USG INCREASE, OR ON LINKING TI TO UN FORMULA. END FYI. RUSH
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